



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**KEENE MAN SENTENCED TO 70 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT ON
FEDERAL METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURING CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Kevin Gilford

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and N.H. Attorney General Peter Heed, Walpole Police Chief David Hewes, and DEA Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey announced that Kevin GILFORD, DOB 7/11/70, of Keene, New Hampshire was sentenced on December 15, 2003 on federal methamphetamine manufacturing charges.

On September 5, 2003, GILFORD entered a guilty plea, before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro, to an information charging him with manufacturing over 50 grams of methamphetamine at his North Walpole apartment.

At yesterday's sentencing, Judge Barbadoro imposed a sentence of 70 months (5 years, 10 months) imprisonment followed by a 4-year period of supervised release during which GILFORD's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Methamphetamine is an extremely dangerous drug. The penalties set by the U.S. Sentencing Commission for its distribution and manufacture are second in severity only to the the penalties for crack cocaine. This sentence, as well as the swift enforcement actions by the N.H. Drug Task Force, DEA, and the Walpole Police Department, should serve notice on anyone operating a methamphetamine lab in New Hampshire -- you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, and the penalties for conviction will be severe."

The case resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the N.H. Attorney General's Drug Task Force, the New Hampshire Resident Office of DEA, and the Walpole Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDETF").